



D&O NEWS

Vol. 1 Issue 1

April-May 2019

Hello Fellow DOers!

Welcome to our very first issue of the **Diversity and Outreach Section Newsletter**. We will send out monthly updates about what the section is doing, what our members are doing, and upcoming events and leadership opportunities. Listservs are great for sharing, but they can sometimes be overwhelming and clog up inboxes.

We hope to keep everyone engaged in the D&O Section through this newsletter. Please look to the last page to see how you can get involved!

A Word from the D&O President:

Hi, DOers! I'm Ally, your 2018-2019 Diversity & Outreach Section President. D&O has a huge place in my librarian heart. Every month, some of the most passionate and productive colleagues I know put their heads together to bring diversity and outreach programs and resources to the NJ library community. It has been an honor to learn from and work alongside those for whom inclusion and diversity are not just ideas but tenets of their library service. My proudest accomplishment as a D&O leader was helping to organize our first ever DO-IT Conference in 2018, a true team effort in which we brought together nearly 100 library workers to learn how to include and serve our library patrons with disabilities.

Before becoming a librarian, I knew I'd live a life in service. I was an AmeriCorps member and adult educator before earning my MLIS from Rutgers, where I focused my studies on public library service and community engagement. I am currently the Head of Information & Adult Services at the vibrant Elizabeth Public Library.

As I move into the role of Past President, I hope to be there every step of the way to support and cheer on our dynamic and diverse incoming leadership team. I am looking forward to another year of influential programming, including our next DO-IT Conference in March 2020, and a Racial Equity Workshop in the Fall. Let's do it together!

Calling all Bookmobiles!

Does your library have a bookmobile, mobile library, or pop-up library? Send in some photos and a few paragraphs and have it featured in our bimonthly Bookmobile Spotlight.

Doing a great diversity or outreach program?

Tell us about it! Each month we will highlight a different program from libraries across the state. No program or initiative is too small. Be sure to send pictures as well as dates and times of programs.

Contact Us

For more information or to submit stories and ideas please contact:
Jen Schureman
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*Join us at our next meeting!
Agendas, Minutes, and more at
njlamembers.org/dosection*

In This Issue

- Meet our President
- Call for Submissions
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BOOKMOBILE SPOTLIGHT



Every month, we're shining a light on Mobile Libraries: one of the best ways we bring the library to the community.

Cape May County Library

Kara Brehm, Outreach Librarian

“Bookmobile [boo k-moh-bee] noun; *An automobile, small truck, or trailer constructed to carry books and serve as a traveling library, as for communities where libraries are not accessible.”*

First used in 1924, the word ‘bookmobile’ conjures up images of wonder and delight for many people. A vehicle designed for carrying books to wherever readers may be—what novelty! Traveling libraries have been around since the 1700s, but the concept of a vehicle (horse-drawn or motorized) whose specific purpose is to carry books was first documented around the 1850s. The most famous early form of these traveling libraries is the story of Mary Titcomb, a Maryland Librarian who carried books to patrons on a horse-drawn wagon in 1905. The term ‘bookmobile’ becomes common lexicon between the 1940s and 1950s. Since the early days, the bookmobile has taken on many forms. In addition to books, modern bookmobiles may have television screens, broadcast free Wi-Fi, or carry 3D printers. Some libraries use bikes, wagons, boats, and even donkeys to get books into the hands of readers.

The **Cape May County Library’s** first ‘bookmobile’ debuted on September 1, 1926, just one year after the establishment of the Free County Library. The purpose of our first bookmobile was twofold, the primary reason being to deposit and rotate books through the 71 “stations” established throughout the county, including schoolrooms, stores, post offices, and private homes. The second purpose was to promote the expansion of a free public library system in New Jersey. Just days after the first trip around the county, the bookmobile—coined the library truck—was on exhibit at the Atlantic County Fair September 4th and 5th, 1926 to demonstrate the workings of a Free Library System to the people of Atlantic County, who would soon vote on the question of establishing a free library there. Gypsey, the library dog (in photo), often went along on book runs.

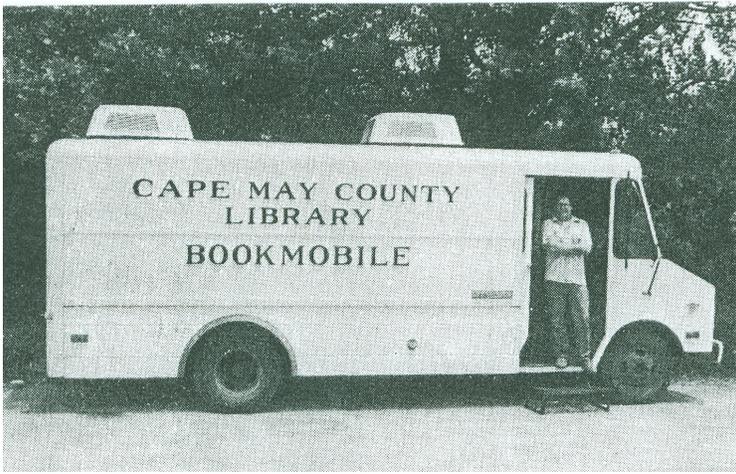
Unfortunately, there are gaps in our bookmobile’s history. There is simply no information on whether or not a bookmobile or library truck was in service in the 1930s and 1940s; during this time, library buildings were being erected and “stations” began to close down. We have photos indicating that a bookmobile was again used in the 1950s, this time a 1948 Ford Panel F-1 Truck. In the late 1970s the library used a converted bread truck, and in the 1990s it looked much like a converted camper. In 2007, CMCL purchased a custom bookmobile that included a wheelchair-accessible entrance. After the '07 bookmobile broke down in 2015, a new bookmobile was purchased on July 13th 2015, and continues to be used today. The current bookmobile weighs 12,500 pounds and carries around 2,000 books and DVDs to designated stops throughout the county. The stops include post offices, daycares, the Coast Guard base, primary and elementary schools, senior centers, and community centers. We also take the bookmobile to local fairs, festivals, parades, and special events!



Bookmobile with Dog c. 1920

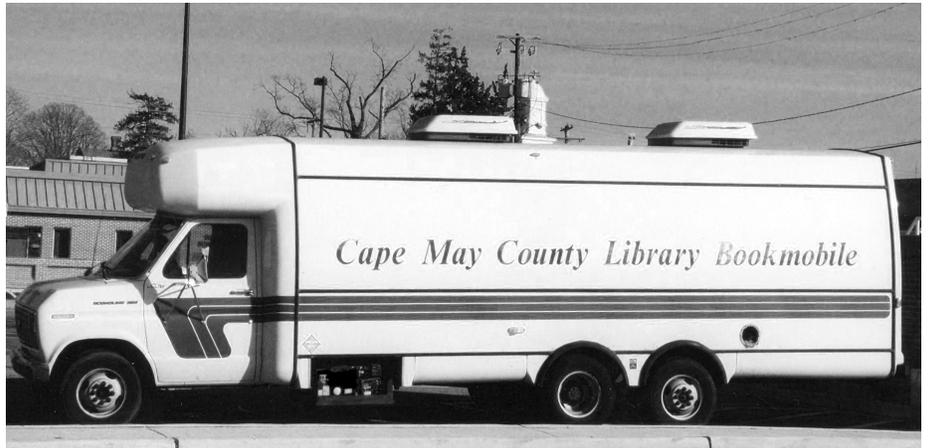


Bookmobile c. 1940



1970s
"Bread Truck"

1990s
"Long One"



2005
Bookmobile

2017
"Wrapped"



Join us at the NJLA Annual Conference!

The D&O and Reference
Sections present:



LIBRARIANS FIGHTING THE OPIOID CRISIS: A CONVERSATION STARTER

Are librarians first responders?
Is NARCAN training right for your staff?
How can we respond to the opioid epidemic
with education, compassion, and action?

Join us for a conversation starter with
library colleagues and community
health professionals on engaging with
our communities in need from a public
health standpoint.

**THURSDAY
MAY 30**

**11:30AM - 12:30 PM
WILDWOOD 8&9**



**DIVERSITY & OUTREACH
SECTION PRESENTS**



Outreach Librarian Meet-Up

**THU. MAY 30
5:00-6:00 PM**



Let's talk shop! Join us
for an informal meet-up
for anyone who does
outreach work, from the
Bookmobile to the Pop-Up
Library and beyond.
Meet us at **Coastal Craft**
to connect and share
with your colleagues.

Check out our other co-sponsored conference programs!

Exclusively Inclusive: Tips and Strategies from
Professionals Outside Libraryland (5/29 @
2:00pm)

Exploring our Past: African American Genealogy
(5/30 @ 3:10pm)

Rethinking Outreach to Visiting Populations and
Non-Residents (5/31 @ 11:30am)

A Queer Idea (5/31 @ 11:30am)

Library Social Work: Engage the Fusion
(5/31 @ 11:30am)

Small Budget, Big Impact:
Cost-Effective Programming (5/31 @ 3:40pm)

**Be sure to visit our D&O Table where
you can connect with members & pick
up a free D&O button!**



Help us support Covenant House,
an Atlantic City youth shelter, and
a school library in Puerto Rico

HOME & AWAY DONATION DRIVE

**THU. MAY 30 - 9:00AM TO 5:00PM
FRI. MAY 31 - 9:00AM TO 1:00PM**

Accepting contributions of gift cards,
clothing, books, and monetary donations.

